1988-89 Rs. 144.00 lakhs.
1989-90 Rs. 25 lakhs.
1990-91 Rs. 30.00 lakhs.

(b) There is no scheme for providing special assistance for setting up Information Centres in the States including Rajasthan.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Central Government do not provide assistance to the States for opening Information Centres of the State either at district level or at State level.

[*English*]

Selection of News Readers and Announcers

5185. SHRI K. THULASIAH VANDAYAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria for selection of Newsreaders and announcers in the Doordarshan; and

(b) the number of applications pending for selection and approved so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS) : (a) The criteria is proficiency and knowledge of language good pronunciation and diction, clarity of voice, cameragenic/telegenic features etc. The minimum educational qualification is graduate and the preferrred age group is between 20-35 years.

(b) According to Doordarshan 1380 applications are pending During 1991-92 eight candidates were selected.

[*Translation*]

Steel Prices

5186. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRI NITISH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Hindustan Times dated December 5,1991 regarding steel prices;

(b) if so, whether the price of Indian Steel in the International market is more than the prices of other countries and if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) the percentage of the taxes imposed by the Government on the price of the steel sold in the Indian market and its comparative figure in Japan, Germany, China and USA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Domestic and export prices of different categories of steel in India are not comparable with export and domestic prices in other steel producing countries.

(c) The levies and excise duty on steel produced by the integrated steel plants in India constitute 14% to 13% of the Ex-works prices of different items of steel. Similar information for Japan, Germany, China and U S.A is not available.

[*English*]

Alternative Sources of Energy

5187. DR. R. MALLU: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government have been advised to develop alternative spources of energy;

(b) whether the Governments propose to vigorously pursue development of wind energy in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether the Government will also

embark on use of 20% alcohol in petrol which is being done all over the world and is pending decision; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Yes, Sir. The State Governments and implementing agencies have been advised to develop and utilise various types of non-conventional energy systems and devices, such as, biogas, improved chulha solar thermal systems, solar photo voltaic systems, wind energy systems, mini-micro hidel plants, biomass based energy generation systems etc.

(b) Efforts are being made for development of wind energy in Andhra Pradesh. 50 wind mapping stations and 9 wind monitoring stations have been established for collection of wind data. In addition 6 more wind monitoring stations are under installation.

A 550 KW wind farm project has been established at Thirumala. The capacity of this project is being increased by another 500 KW. Recently, a 2 MW wind farm project has been taken up for installation at Ramagiri in ananthapur district. In addition 2 wind farm projects, 377 Shallow well and 10 deep well water pumping wind mills were installed in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) and (d). A demonstration project for diesel replacement through duel-fuel system of ethanol-diesel has been taken up to run a fleet of 25 DTC buses in Delhi for studying various effects. As regards use of alcohol for petrol replacement, a project has been undertaken for demonstrating use of petrol 90% blended with anhydrous alcohol 10%. Various aspects of the above are being studies in the project

Industrial Backwardness due to Non-Availability of Electricity

5188. SHRI M. RAMANNA RAI: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that one of the reasons for the industrial backwardness of Malabar area is because of the non-availability of electricity;

(b) whether any proposal is pending before the Government for a super thermal plant to solve the electricity problems of the region;

(c) whether the Ministry of Environment has cleared the Trikkaipur super thermal plant; and

(d) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) The distribution of power within various regions/areas of a State is the prerogative of the concerned State Government/State Electricity Board. However, dunng the period April, 91-February, 92, the State of Kerala, including Malabar region, faced an energy shortage of 3%

(b) The National Thermal Power Corporation propose to set up a Thermal Power Project with a capacity of 2 x 210 MW in the first stage in Alleppy District of Kerala,

(c) and (d). At present, there is no proposal to set-up a Super Thermal Power Plant at Trikanpur.

[*Translation*]

P.C.Os in Uttar Pradesh to Scheduled Tribes

5189. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision for setting up of a public telephone for Scheduled Tribes with the population of more than five thousand;